

Commuter Choice® Employer E-Update

June 2003

The Commuter Choice® Employer E-Update: Promoting the Latest Highlights to Commuter Choice® Employers

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1. Our New Name: Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. Join Us for a Phone Forum to Learn More About the Change!

As you probably already know, the Commuter Choice® Leadership Initiative is changing its name to Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. This change will be effective mid July.

We invite you to join us for a presentation and discussion on the transition from Commuter Choice® Leadership Initiative to Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. The phone forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at:

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Pacific)

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Mountain)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Central)

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Eastern)

Space is limited. Please respond to bwc@epa.gov (our new mailbox) to receive a phone number and password for the forum. A second forum will be scheduled for those who cannot attend on June 25th.

Why is this change happening?

During the San Francisco pilot in fall 2002, we discovered that the name, Best Workplaces for CommutersSM, generated excitement, elicited media attention, and resonated very well with employers and the public. People understand what it means to be the "Best of" in any category. Since our Commuter Choice® Employers are the *best* in offering commuter benefits, they deserve the new name and recognition.

What does it means for you as a Commuter Choice® Employer?

All Commuter Choice® Employers will become Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. The goal is to attract media attention and better recognition for your company, leading to increased commuter participation and benefits.

We will keep you posted as we get closer to the effective date.

2. May Phone Forum Emphasizes Strong Commuter Benefits at Federal Facilities.

Encouraging alternative transportation at federal facilities helps to comply with federal mandates to reduce the number of single passenger commutes. We had great speakers who covered the following topics: Valerie Broadwell (U.S. EPA), on developing a federal commuter benefits program for a new facility; Philippa Houston (U.S. Department of Defense), on implementing a federal commuter benefits program at an existing facility; Ann Toohey (U.S. EPA), on legal issues concerning emergency ride home programs; and Stan Kaczmarczyk (General Services Administration), on the benefits and issues of federal telework programs. To read the forum summary, please visit our Web site at http://www.commuterchoice.gov/employ/ph-forumindex.htm

3. Commuter Choice® Leadership Initiative Welcomes 32 Employers in May – 28,616 additional employee commuters covered nationwide under our program!

The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM welcomes the following employers who joined in May:

- <u>California:</u> Alameda County Congestion Management, Altera Corporation, City of Lafayette, City of Santa Monica, City of Santa Rosa, Triangle Software, VPSI, Inc.
- <u>Colorado:</u> Auraria Higher Education Center, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Imagine!, Noropa University
- District of Columbia: General Services Administration
- Maryland: American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc., Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.
- <u>Massachusetts:</u> Cabot Corporation
- New York: Commuterlink, Inc.
- North Carolina: Triangle Transit Authority
- <u>Texas:</u> American Electric Power, CenterPoint Energy, Deloitte & Touche, Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Ctr., Dynegy, Inc., Employee Benefit Solutions, Inc., Fulbright & Jaworski, Greater Houston Parnerships, Inc., Marathon Oil Corporation, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Systems, TEPPCO, Waste Management
- Utah: Utah Transit Authority
- Virginia: The Destination Sales & Mkg. Grp. Ltd., Westfield Realty, Inc.

If there is someone in your organization who you want us to include on our *Commuter Choice E-Update* distribution list, please e-mail your request to commuterchoice@epa.gov with "Add to *Commuter Choice E-Update*" as the subject and the individual's e-mail address in the message text. If you would like to have your name removed from this list and have another person's name from your organization added to our distribution list, please send us an e-mail message to commuterchoice@epa.gov with "Remove from *Commuter Choice E-Update*" as the subject line. Please provide us with the e-mail address of the new contact person for your organization.

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